Message Text

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R 261713Z JAN 77 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9947 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY OSLO

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COPENHAGEN FOR REG. FISHATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, US, PO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE US/GOP NEGOTIATIONS ON A GOVERNING

INTERNATIONAL FISHERY AGREEMENT (GIFA)

REF: (A) LISBON 0219, (B) STATE 010495 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION REPORTED REF A, BUT BEFORE EMBASSY'S RECEIPT OF REF B, CAPTAIN ESTEVES CARDOSO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION, SENT TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FISHERIES PEDRO COELHO A MEMO RECOMMENDING THAT GOP GIVE TO USG A COMMITMENT TO ABIDE BY U.S. REGULATIONS. CARDOSO RECOMMENDED ALSO THAT GOP REQUEST NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. FOR A GIFA, PREFERABLY INVITING U.S. DELEGATION TO LISBON. CARDOSO SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE TO EMBASSY NOTING THAT HIS MEMO HAD BEEN SENT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR TRANSMISSION TO EMBASSY. (WE HAVE YET TO HEAR FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY.) CARDOSO'S LETTER TO EMBASSY INCLUDED A LIST OF 58 CODFISHING VESSELS WHICH "COULD FISH" IN THE U.S. FISHERY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSERVATION ZONE.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER MET JANUARY 20 WITH CARDOSO TO DISCUSS POINTS OUTLINED IN REF B AND TO DETERMINE WHY LATTER HAD FORWARDED LIST OF COD-FISHING VESSELS. BEFORE EMBASSY OFFICER HAD FINISHED PRESENTING POINTS OF REF B, CARDOSO AFFIRMED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SITUATION PERFECTLY. HE

RECOGNIZED THAT PORTUGAL HAS LITTLE HISTORIC CLAIM TO FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN U.S. ZONE. LACK OF SUCH A CLAIM EXPLAINS WHY HE HAD INTENDED TO SEEK ONLY A SMALL QUOTA FOR SQUID (REF A), THE ONLY SPECIES WHICH MIGHT BE IN SURPLUS.

- 3. CARDOSO SAID HE WANTED GOP TO CONCLUDE A GIFA, AND HE HAD SENT US LIST OF PORTUGUESE COD-FISHING VESSELS, FOR TWO REASONS:
- -- TO GIVE GOP A POSITION FROM WHICH IT MIGHT REQUEST QUOTAS FOR OTHER SPECIES IN FUTURE YEARS, WHEN STOCKS ARE REBUILT; AND
- -- TO ESTABLISH BASIS FOR PORTUGUESE VESSELS TO FISH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH, OR UNDER LEASE TO, AMERICAN FISHING COMPANIES.
- 4. COMMENT: A. CARDOSO APPEARS TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT POOR NEAR-TERM PROSPECTS FOR FISHERY QUOTAS WITHIN U.S. CONSERVATION ZONE. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT GOP MIGHT WISH TO SEEK GREATER CONCESSIONS. IN OTHER FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS WHERE PORTUGUESE HISTORIC CLAIM WAS ALSO WEAK, GOP HAS SOUGHT CONCESSIONS ON BASIS OF POLITICAL SOLIDARITY OR AS ASSISTANCE TO ITS DEPRESSED FISHERIES. THIS APPEAL APPEARS TO HAVE ENJOYED SOME SUCCESS WITH EC AND NORWAY. INFO ADDRESSEES MIGHT WISH TO COMMENT.
- B. AS EXPLAINED IN REF A, GOP HAS MOVED SLOWLY AS REGARDS NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. UNFORTUNATELY, GOP HAS A TENDENCY TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKING ACTION. THUS EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE TOO SURPRISED IF GOP MAKES URGENT REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATION OF A GIFA (AND A SQUID QUOTA) JUST BEFORE FEBRUARY 28 DEADLINE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT TRANSMIT REGULATIONS GOVERNING FOREIGN VESSELS FISHING IN U.S. ZONE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH, OR AS LICENSEE OF, AMERICAN COMPANIES.
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TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, US, PO

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